

WASHINGTON. D.C. – Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista) today released an exclusive video ([see video here](#)

) of the June 3, 2009 ceremony unveiling President Ronald Reagan's statue in the Capitol Rotunda. The video gives Californians of the 49th

Congressional District an inside look at this historic event honoring one of California's greatest leaders and America's greatest Presidents.

“President Reagan's statue is the highest honor Congress and California can give, reminding all who visit the Capitol of Reagan's courage, conviction and love of country,” Issa said. “This video opens a window into the beautiful ceremony for the people of California and all who hold Reagan dear.”

The Capitol held a standing-room-only crowd as the seven foot tall, 500 pound bronze statue was unveiled by guest of honor, former First Lady Nancy Reagan. Other special guests included former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, former California Governor Pete Wilson and former Reagan Chief of Staff James Baker.

“The statue is a wonderful likeness of Ronnie, and he would be so proud,” Mrs. Reagan said. “The last time I was in this room was for Ronnie's service, so it's nice to be back under happier circumstances.”

The former president lay in state in the Capitol rotunda after his death on June 5, 2004, during which time more than 100,000 people – including members of Congress, the administration, and numerous world leaders – filed by to pay their respects.

Rep. Issa attributes his first bid for Congress to Reagan's restoration of conservative values to American politics, reminding us all that America's best times lay ahead.

“For many, Reagan was the reason they got into politics—I know he was for me,” Issa said. “Californians hold a special place in their heart for President Reagan and I wanted to make sure everyone back home had the opportunity to witness this moving event.”

The Reagan statue, sculpted by Chas Fagan, depicts the President standing tall with his arm resting on a pedestal, his famous grin fixed on his face. Pieces of the Berlin Wall, toppled by Reagan's determination, are set in the sculpture's base.

Each state is allotted two statues in the Capitol. California's other is of Father Junipero Serra, the founder of nine California missions. The Reagan statue replaces one of Thomas Starr King, a minister celebrated by President Abraham Lincoln for keeping California in the Union during the civil war. King's statue will move to California's State Capitol in Sacramento.